

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8423
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13689

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG XF
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SUBJ: PERMANENT ARAB RED SEA PEACEKEEPING FORCE?

1. AHAM ARAB AFFAIRS EDITOR "LEARNS", IN SECOND-LEAD
ARTICLE AUGUST 17, THAT ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL
FOR PERMANENT, 6,000- MA AL RED SEA PEACEKEEPING FORCE,
WILL BE DISCUSSED AT REGULAR AL COUNCIL (FONMINS) MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 3. AHAM REPORTS THAT PERMANENT

RED SEA SECURITY FORCE WOULD BE UNDER COMMAND OF AL MILITARY SECRETARIAT (HEADED BY EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STAFF, MUHAMMAD 'ALI FAHIMI) AND THAT CREATION OF FORCE RELATES TO "MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT" ON AL COUNCIL AGENDA: ARAB SOLIDARITY AND ELIMINATION OF ARAB DIFFERENCES. AHAM REPORTS THAT AL SECRETARIAT PROPOSING THAT EACH AL MEMBER DESIGNATE UNITS OF ITS MILITARY FORCE S TO BE "AT DISPOSITION" OF SECURITY FORCE, AS IS DONE WITH UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES.

2. ARAB AFFAIRS EDITOR ALSO NOTES THT FONMINS OF SUDAN, YAR, PDY, AND SOMALIA WILL EXPLAIN THEIR POSITION ON RED SEA SECURITY TO AL COUNCIL, IN LIGHT OF THEIR AGREEMENTS AT MINI-SUMMIT. (AHAM STATES THAT MINI-SUMMIT HELD IN SAN IN JUNE, BUT ASSUME THAT MARCH 1977 TA'IZ MINI-SUMMIT INTENDED.)

3. AHAM ARTICLE REVEALS, WITH MUCH LESS ENTHUSIASM, SECOND AL SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO FONMINS, ALSO ON SUBJECT OF ARAB SOLIDARITY: CREATION OF ARAB COURT OF JUSTICE TO ARBITRATE INTER-ARAB DISPUTES. PROPOSAL ALSO SUGGESTS CREATION OF PERMANENT STANDING COMMITTEE OF ARAB COURT OF JUSTICE, COMPOSED OF "A FEW" FONMINS, TO BE ELECTED EVERY TWO YEARS, TO INTERVENE IMMEDIATELY IN ANY INTER-ARAB DISPUTE IN COORDINATION WITH AL SECRETARIAT.

4. COMMENT: AHAM ARTICLE ASSOCIATES BOTH EGYPT AND SAUDI
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ARABIA WITH DECISION REACHED AT TA'IZ MINI-SUMMIT AND THUS GIVE IMPRESSION THAT GOE SUPPORTS AL SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL FOR PERMANENT RED SEA SECURITY FORCE. ALTHOUGH NO MENTION MADE IN ARTICLE CONCERNING USE OF AL FORCE, IT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY AS IF AL SECRETARIAT, AT BEHEST OF GOE, OR SUDAN, OR SOMALIA, TRYING TO LINE UP ARAB MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN REVOLUTION AND PERHAPS PROTECTION FOR DJIBOUTI AGAINST ETHIOPIA. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW SUCH A FORCE COULD BE CREATED, EVEN IF PROPOSAL APPROVED BY AL COUNCIL OVER LIBYAN AND PERHAPS OTHER OBJECTIONS. PROPOSAL COULD BE ATTEMPT TO NUDGE OIL-RICH ARABS INTO MORE GENEROUS FINANCIAL BACKING FOR ERITREANS AND DJIBOUTI AS ALTERNATIVE TO EARMARKING MILITARY FORCES FOR NEBULOUS GOAL OF "RED SEA SECURITY". INTERESTING TO NOTE PROPOSAL SURFACED DAY AFTER DEPARTURE OF DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED. FOR THE RECORD, AL ASST. SEC GEN TOLD POL COUNS AUGUST 17 THAT IT "CERTAIN" DJIBOUTI WOULD BECOME 22ND AL MEMBER IN SEPTEMBER. HE PROFESSED, HOWEVER, TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT AL RED SECURITY FORCE PROPOSAL.
EILTS

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